

League. Nearly 300 civic and business leaders gathered in Portland to thank Margaret for the leadership she provided to the Urban League during a very crucial time.

I first got to know Margaret when I came to the Oregon State Senate in 1993. At that time, she was serving the fifth of her seven terms in the Oregon State House of Representatives, where she made history as the first African-American woman ever elected to the Oregon House.

Margaret was a Democrat representing inner-city Portland. I was a Republican representing rural Eastern Oregon. Yet, we quickly became friends and decided there were a number of projects on which we could unite our efforts. We have been working together ever since.

An educator by training, Margaret has worked as a youth counselor, the assistant director of a community action agency, and for 27 years she served on the faculty of Portland Community College, where she was a founder of the PCC Skills Center. While in the State Senate, I was proud to work with Margaret to preserve funding for the Skills Center, which is a center of hope for those looking for a better future.

In 2000, Margaret was elected to the Oregon State Senate, having won the nomination of both the Democrat and Republican parties. Her legislative achievements include helping to create a statewide Head Start program and the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps. She was also the chief sponsor of the law that created a state holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Indeed, few Oregonians have done more to make Dr. King's dreams a reality than Margaret Carter.

Included among Margaret's many talents is the fact that she has one of the most remarkable singing voices I have ever heard. While I couldn't join in the dinner in her honor this week, I did want to raise my voice here on the Senate floor to pay tribute to a woman who I am honored to call my friend a woman who is a true Oregon hero.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY COX

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I congratulate Ms. Mary Cox for being honored as Missouri's Outstanding Older Worker by the Experience Works Senior Workforce Solutions. Mary was nominated by her employer at the Kansas City Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1997, Mary began working for the library as a trainee with the Jewish Vocational Services and has been there ever since. "I had no idea what I could do, but after only one week, I knew the library was a place I wanted to work," Mary stated. At the library, she entered a fast-paced, highly computerized, and customer service oriented world. Mary spent her first year learning how to shelve books, organize materials, and then received computer training. She loves her work as a library clerk because she continually

learns new information and enjoys helping library patrons complete research. Mary says, "working keeps me strong physically and mentally." I commend Mary for her dedication and the Kansas City Public Library's contribution to the Kansas City community.●

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY LAMAR

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the bravery and courage of Anthony Lamar who saved the life of his schoolmate, fifth grader Walter Britton. While working the tree house, Walter lost his balance and reached back to grab onto a branch, but instead he grabbed a live wire. Anthony pulled Walter off the live wire saving his life and helped Walter home. I commend Anthony for his bravery and courage and hope his example will encourage others to assist those in need.●

TRIBUTE TO MARSHAL JOHN WRIGHT

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Marshal John Wright. On June 20, 2002 a minivan collided with a train killing three adults and the only survivor was a 5½-year-old child named Allison Seymour. Bucklin City Marshal John Wright observed the accident from his police car, about a block and a half away from the railroad tracks and rushed to the wreck. He found Allison Seymour belted in a car seat, crying but conscious and alert. Marshal Wright held Allison's hand and was able to keep her calm until the paramedics arrived to life flight her to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Allison's injuries consisted of a broken femur on her right leg and lacerations on her half calf. While at the crash scene, Marshal Wright was at personal risk from the threat of an explosion from leaking gasoline, but his concern was for Allison's welfare. I commend Marshal Wright for his selfless actions and hope his example will encourage others to assist those in need.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIC C. HURST

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to your attention an outstanding individual, Eric C. Hurst of Minot, ND.

This young man tragically lost his life in an attempt to rescue one of my fellow Iowans. Mr. Hurst loved his job as a canoe guide in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. While working on July 30, 2002, Mr. Hurst witnessed a young lady, Jamie Christenson, drowning in the boundary Waters near Basswood Falls. Without hesitation, Mr. Hurst dove in to rescue Ms. Christenson. Unfortunately, both Mr. Hurst and Ms. Christenson were pulled under water by the strong undercurrent. When they surfaced, revival attempts were futile.

Although this story has a tragic ending, we must not forget the heroism displayed by Eric Hurst. He was willing to try to save Ms. Christenson from the turbulent waters of Basswood Falls without regard to the danger it posed to his own life. This is truly the ultimate sacrifice one can make.

It is with deep respect and great sadness that I recognize Mr. Eric C. Hurst before this body of Congress and this nation for his unselfish act of heroism. Eric Hurst and Jamie Christenson will be missed by the many people they touched in their life and I express my sincere condolences to their families.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH R. DEVINE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph R. Devine, Chief of Police in Merrimack, NH. Joseph has faithfully served our country for the past 28 years, first in the United States Army and then as a member of the Police Force.

Joseph began his career in law enforcement in 1956 with the Johnston, Rhode Island Police Department. During his tenure then, Joseph proved to be a valuable asset and was rewarded with numerous promotions. Hired originally as a Special officer, Joseph was promoted to Full Time Officer 2 years later, followed by another 3 promotions, eventually leaving him with the rank of Deputy Chief in 1970. His 14 years of dutiful service in Johnston prepared him for his future duties, giving him valuable experience and on the job training.

Joseph later served as the Chief of Police for both St. Johnsbury and Claremont, New Hampshire before settling in the Town of Merrimack. It was there that he has spent the past 21 years making the streets safe for children and adults, patrolling our neighborhoods, and faithfully serving the residents of Merrimack. He will be sorely missed by those who he protected for so many years. Throughout his career, Joseph received numerous awards celebrating his distinguished career, from the VFW Certificate of Appreciation for Community Service to the Life Membership Award from the International Association of Chief of Police to the Professionalism in Law Enforcement Award.

Joseph serves as a positive example to those in law enforcement and to all Granite Staters. He has served his country well and made his family proud. The Town of Merrimack has benefitted greatly from his expertise, and I am confident that in years to come, Joseph will make his expertise and knowledge readily available to the Police Department. It has been an honor and a privilege representing you in the United States Senate. I wish you continued happiness and success in the years to come.●

A TRIBUTE TO DICK SPEES

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, on Saturday, November 16, 2002, the city of Oakland will celebrate the remarkable career in public service of retiring Oakland City Councilmember Dick Spees, who has served on the council with grace, wit and distinction for 24 years. The celebration—2003: A Spees Odyssey will take place at the Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland.

Councilmember Spees leaves a quarter-century legacy of service to his constituents, as well as council leadership on issues of economic development, marketing, good government, finance, quality of life, public safety, and regional planning.

Among his many accomplishments, he led local efforts to found Chabot Space & Science Center; Oakland-Sharing the Vision; Oakland Tours; the Bay Area Economic Forum; the Bay Area World Trade Center, and the Bay Area Bioscience Center.

He has led campaigns to pass bond measures that have purchased open space, built recreation centers, libraries and cultural facilities, and upgraded emergency response facilities and equipment.

As chair of the City Council's Rules Committee, Dick has shepherded campaign finance reform, the sunshine ordinance, the lobbyist registration ordinance and the formation of the public ethics commission. He has also spearheaded development of the city, State and Federal legislative programs and led advocacy efforts in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

A skilled negotiator, Dick has resolved many contentious issues in District 4 and in the city, including the expansion of Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Montclair Lucky Store, Fred Finch Youth Center, and Lincoln Child Center. He negotiated recent amendments to the Residential Rent Arbitration Program.

In the area of economic development, Councilmember Spees has led many of the city's marketing efforts, has collaborated on writing Oakland's telecommunications policy, and has initiated business attraction efforts for telecommunications, digital media, software, and bioscience companies. He has promoted economic development in District 4 through zoning changes, streetscape improvements, utility undergrounding, and outreach to interested developers.

Throughout his career, Dick has represented Oakland on Bay Area regional agencies. He currently serves on the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Economic Forum, the Regional Airport Planning Committee, the Bay Area World Trade Center, Oakland Base Reuse Authority, and co-chairs the City-Port Liaison Committee and the BAR T-Oakland Airport Connector Stakeholders Committee.

The people of Oakland are losing a remarkable public servant in Dick Spees, but I suspect that his heart with never be far from the people he has rep-

resented so well for so long. I wish the very best to him and his wife Jean.●

NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA
AWARENESS MONTH

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans, and their family members, who are currently affected by Spina Bifida, the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect.

Spina Bifida affects more than 4,000 pregnancies each year, with more than half ending tragically in abortion. Each year 1500 babies are born with Spina Bifida, a terrible condition in which the spine does not close completely during the first few weeks of pregnancy. The result of this neural tube defect is that most babies suffer from a host of physical, psychological, and educational challenges, including paralysis, developmental delay, numerous surgeries, and living with a shunt in their skulls in an attempt to ameliorate their condition. After decades of poor prognoses and short life expectancy, due to breakthroughs in research, combined with improvements in health care and treatment children with Spina Bifida are now living long enough to become adults with the condition. However, with this extended life expectancy people with Spina Bifida now face new challenges education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions, aging concerns, and other related issues.

Therefore, we must do more to ensure a high quality of life for people with Spina Bifida so more families choose the blessing and joy of having a child with this condition. Fortunately, Spina Bifida is no longer the death sentence it once was and now most people born with Spina Bifida will likely have a normal or near normal life expectancy. The challenge now is to ensure that these individuals have the highest quality of life possible.

One of my constituents, sixteen year-old Gregory Pote, is one of the 70,000 Americans who live with Spina Bifida. Gregory had the pleasure of visiting Capitol Hill this summer to hear his uncle testify before the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families' hearing on "Birth Defects: Strategies for Prevention and Ensuring Quality of Life." Greg's uncle, Hal Pote, President of the Spina Bifida Foundation, testified that one of his proudest moments was the morning that their family awoke before the crack of dawn and gathered together on the side of a street in Philadelphia to watch Greg carry the Olympic torch earlier this year. Despite this amazing accomplishment, it is important to note that at the age of sixteen Greg has already had more than twenty surgeries. It is my understanding that double-digit numbers for surgeries unfortunately are not unusual for children living with

this condition. Therefore, it is essential that we do more to prevent and reduce suffering from Spina Bifida and take all the steps we can to ensure that Greg and the 70,000 other Americans like him who live with Spina Bifida every day can have the most productive and full lives possible.

I would like to commend the Spina Bifida Association of America, SBAA, an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works every day, not just in the month of October, to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect. The SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida, and these families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

During the month of October the SBAA and its chapters make a special push to increase public awareness about Spina Bifida and teach prospective parents about prevention. Simply by taking a daily dose of the B vitamin, folic acid, found in most multivitamins, women of childbearing age have the power to reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida by up to 75 percent. That such a simple change in habit can have such a profound effect should leave no question as to the importance of awareness and the impact of prevention.

In addition, I would like to commend my Senate colleagues for allocating \$2 million in much-needed funding for a National Spina Bifida Program at the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, NCBDDD, at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, to ensure that those individuals living with Spina Bifida can live active, productive, and meaningful lives. I also am very proud that we in the Senate recently passed by unanimous consent the bipartisan "Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2002," which takes many critical steps that will work to prevent Spina Bifida and to improve quality of life for individuals and families affected by this terrible birth defect.

I again thank the SBAA and its chapters for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I also wish to thank two nationally respected television journalists, Judy Woodruff and Al Hunt for their caring, meaningful leadership in this important cause. In conclusion, I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of results in its endeavors, and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.●